

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-17, 19-31, 37, 38 and 40-50 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 37 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported at least by the claims as originally filed. Claims 18 and 39 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, indicates that claims 14-26 and 39-43 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability. Amendments to claims 1 and 37 are undertaken in view of the indication of allowability of at least claims 18 and 39.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1, 4-13, 26, 27, 30, 31, 37, 38, 44-47 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0024457 to Hilton et al. (hereinafter "Hilton"). The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 28, 29, 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hilton in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0003550 to Berg et al. (hereinafter "Berg"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

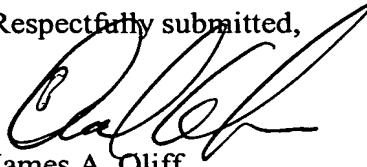
Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Hilton is not available as a prior art reference by which to render obvious the subject matter of any of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because at the time the claimed invention was made, the subject matter of the Hilton reference and of the claimed invention were owned by the same entity or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of at least claims 28, 29, 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hilton in view of Berg are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 37 are amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in indicated allowable, and now-canceled, claims 18 and 39, respectively. As such, claims 1 and 37 are allowable over the applied prior art references. Further, claims 4-13, 26, 27, 30, 31, 38, 44-47 and 50 are also allowable over the prior art of record for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on allowable base claims, as well as for separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-13, 26-31, 37, 38 and 44-50, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 14-17, 20-26 and 40-43 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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